

Tribunania

* U. S. A. —

Nixon,

Watergate

and now

Food Shortages

WATERGATE is now once again very much in the news. There was a lull during the Brezhnev visit to the United States when the Senate Committee suspended its sittings to enable the President to conduct the summit without being too embarrassed by the disclosures to be publicly made by his former counsel John W. Dean. What Dean had said in secret sessions had leaked out to the press and this no doubt proved a major headache for all concerned. But, after Brezhnev, Dean recorded his testimony in public with full T.V. coverage.

The Newsweek, July 9, reported: "The President is involved... I hope the President is forgiven." The witness flickering on-screen at last was John W. Dean, III, and the words introduced a spectacle unprecedented in US history—an insider's sworn testimony that a sitting President had been a knowing conspirator in crime. Dean's story was uncorroborated, his own guilt well-established, his manner in 30 hours before the Senate Watergate committee at moments numbingly flat. But his recital remained

the most damning yet in what has become the trial *in absentia* of Richard Nixon: a portrait of a President who set the any-means-to-an-end ethos in which Watergate could happen—and who in the end presided over a pervasive plot to keep Watergate covered up. The matter of Mr. Nixon's involvement thus formally became a subject of Congressional inquiry and his forgiveness no longer seemed a settled question. 'I think,' one powerful House Democrat told a colleague at the weekend, 'that we're only one step away from impeachment.'.....

The *Time*, July 9, stated that "Now the grave charges against the President had passed the point of no return. Carried with chilling reality into millions of American homes and spread massively on the official record of a solemn Senate inquiry, the torrential testimony of John W. Dean III fell short of proof in a court of law. But the impact was devastating. As President, Richard Nixon was grievously, if not mortally, wounded.... Though not present in the packed hearing room, Nixon was personally and directly confronted by the crouched figure of his youthful accuser, until lately his faithful counsel.. With impressive poise and a masterly memory, Dean spun his detailed web of evidence. He readily admitted his own illegal and improper acts, but he emerged unshaken from five full days of recital and cross-examination, with the basic story challenged but intact. Clearly without some kind of direct and detailed Nixon reply, the

committee—and the country—would have difficulty believing that the President was not an active and fully aware participant in the Watergate cover-up, as Dean charged. In fact, how and when the President would reply became a decisive factor in his hopes for political survival. Chairman Sam Ervin and other committee members had already begun to ask for his appearance. With dozens of dates, snatches of dialogue and some documents, Dean had similarly implicated Nixon's most intimate former aides, John Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman, in multiple actions in the Watergate cover-up. Less vigorously but still deeply, Dean had also drawn into that circle of conspirators a man he much admires, former Attorney General John Mitchell...."

Mitchell who gave evidence before the Committee immediately after Dean denied that the President either had any foreknowledge of the Watergate affair or had any hand in the cover-up—and that he knew about the matter only on March 22, 1973. Mitchell has taken part of the blame himself and absolved the President. At the time of writing these notes, Mitchell's evidence has not been completed and it is difficult to say what impact it will have on Dean's testimony.

On the cover, we have this week a cartoon depicting President Nixon being tormented by a bug—the Watergate bug—which keeps buzzing round and round his head. This caricature seems to aptly

describe the worries and troubles which seem to surround President Nixon.

HIS TROUBLES are not confined to Watergate alone. The dollar has kept slipping for sometime and it became a little stronger only a few days before these notes were written. But even more than the dollar crisis, and tied up with it, is the economic crisis within the US itself brought about by the galloping inflation. For the first time in known history there is talk of food shortages in the US. Only a few months ago, US government circles were certain that American agricultural exports would help correct the American balance of international payments.

But today, "the food industry is making people's flesh creep with talk of impending food shortages at home, while until the new, hopefully record, crop foreign buyers are going to have to make do with half the soya beans and only 40 per cent of the soya-bean meal and oilcake for which they have contracted. (Even so America has exported a record amount of soya beans this year)"

More food exports have been controlled and even temporarily banned. As the *Economist*, July 7, put it. "the American dinner table is not going to go without meat and chicken to satisfy foreign demand, as the President said when he introduced his second freeze on June 13th. But it is precisely the freeze which the food industry claims is likely to produce bare shelves in super-


markets, shortages of meat, chickens, eggs, fruit and vegetables and even flour. The price of food products on the farm is not controlled directly, but when a farmer finds that feed for his cattle, pigs and chicken is going to cost more than the wholesaler or the supermarket can afford to pay him, he is likely, particularly if he is a big, business operator, to cut his losses by slaughtering his animals prematurely...."

And that is what is happening in the USA right now.

The *Newsweek*, July 9, set out the reality in a piece of grim reporting: "The firm stories poured in from the red clay hills of Georgia, the hard scabble range land of West Texas and the verdant farms of rural Wisconsin. At the Center Hatchery and Feeds Co. in Joaquin, Texas, more than 50,000 chicks were dropped into vats and drowned before a public protest prompted by television pictures of the slaughter, put an end to it. Texas cattlemen were also leading some of their herds to early slaughter rather than face the cost of soaring feed bills. Georgia poultry and cattle raisers were doing the same thing, and in Wisconsin, dairy herds were being butchered at an unprecedented rate...."

The *Newsweek* went on to say that thousands of cows were being slaughtered: "...cows were among the tens of thousands of victims of the harsh economics of farming under a price freeze in the US. The prices of soyabeans, corn and other grain used to feed cattle and poultry

have soared. In Georgia, for example, the price of soya-bean meal has jumped from 100 dollars to 400 dollars a ton during the past year while fish meal used as chicken feed, has leaped from 130 dollars to 600 dollars a ton. Though farmers are theoretically free to raise their own prices, the lid on retail prices is creating buyer resistance—catching farmers in a squeeze. Many have thus



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chosen to kill their herds and flocks rather than slowly go out of business by selling at a loss in the marketplace. The result is a growing shortage of not only meat, poultry and eggs, but other food products as well—it is a shortage that is bound to get worse before it gets better.”

In view of this crisis, the US government has virtually stopped all exports of soybeans, cotton seeds, soybean meal and oil and it is likely that there might be an embargo on corn exports as well. But if this should happen there will be chaos in many countries which depend on US food exports.

Take Japan. The Japanese, who use soybean derivatives in every meal import prac-

tically their entire supply—and 90 percent of the imports come from the United States. One Japanese newspaper has dramatically claimed that “one in four Japanese will starve” if American imports are stopped. But US, according to the *Newsweek*, will not let this happen. The US cannot let down longstanding foreign customers, and it was likely that some kind of a rationing scheme will develop where overseas buyers will be able to get pro-rated shares of the scarce commodities.

Most American commentators are pessimistic about the immediate future. This is how the *Newsweek* sums up the situation: “...but in the light of the government’s dismal record with controls this year, no one is going to have much confidence until they know the exact shape of phase four—and until then the gaps on the supermarket shelves are likely to grow.”

The *Time* magazine set out the realities of this situation in equally grim terms: “In actions dolefully reminiscent of dumping milk and killing little pigs during the Depression, US chicken farmers and cattle raisers last week threw down the first major challenge to the Administration’s price freeze. Claiming that they cannot make a profit at present prices as long as the cost of freeze-exempt feed grains keeps rising, poultry farmers cut their losses by systematically gassing, drowning and suffocating a million baby chicks and selling their egg-laying hens. Other farmers sent pregnant sows to the slaughterhouse and dis-

patched old milk cows to hamburger heaven. These tactics raise a two-headed specter of shortages and higher prices for milk, eggs and meat in the next few months.

“To buck up the supply and bring down the price of feed, the administration clamped a temporary embargo on exports of soybeans and cottonseed. This week the Administration will announce a stiff program of export controls on these feeds, and perhaps corn as well. President Nixon acted after the Commerce Department reported that export commitments for June, July and August were so great that the nation was in danger of running out of the pea-shaped, yellow or green, protein-loaded soybeans before the next harvest begins in September.”

But export controls will not help the US. They will make matters worse as *Time* clearly stated: “The export controls will aggravate the nations’ trade deficit which jumped to \$158 million in May. They will make the US dollar less convertible—and thus less valuable—in the world because it cannot be exchanged for certain commodities. Worse, the historically unprecedented embargo against friendly nations infuriated European and Japanese customers, who charge that the US has reneged on its long-term export contracts. The Japanese were particularly irked because US officials have prodded them relentlessly to Buy American. Japan needs soybeans—they are used for soy sauce, bean curd and other foods—and

CYCLONE FORECASTING

Four new stations to locate and register cyclones by radar are to be set up on the Bay of Bengal coast of India. According to UNESCO Features, the stations are to form part of an integrated cyclone warning system to be organized in India in the course of the next few years. Besides coastal weather stations, the system will have eight radar installations. An artificial weather satellite is to be launched in co-operation with Japan. The satellite which is to be put into orbit in 1976, will relay photos of cloud cover over the Bay of Bengal and the Indian subcontinent at 20-second intervals.

buys almost all of them from the US. Last year Europe's Common Market nations also bought \$ 800 million worth of American soybeans and soy products."

Nixon's America, burdened with the heavy heritage of the costs of the Vietnam war and the job of acting for over 25 years as the world's cold war policeman with bases all over the world, has an awesome balance of payments deficit; and if the US cuts down on her exports now, the position of the dollar was likely to get more sticky.

As *Time* sees it, the ordinary consumers in the USA are in for a thin time in the coming months. "Shoppers have to settle for a more limited selection in the supermarket. Food processors are dropping some items because fruit and vegetable growers are demanding higher prices for their control-exempt goods, while the companies' prices for many products are often frozen at last summer's lower level. General Foods, for example, is turning away orders for some frozen food lines, especially raspberries and strawberries. Some supermarkets are not stocking plums and tomatoes. Also, potatoes and fish sticks are already being priced off store shelves."

It concludes its piece about the growing food crisis in the USA with an acidically cynical comment: "Administration officials bullishly predict that the food and feed prices will ease off by autumn because of 1) the export controls, and 2) an expected rise in this year's output of soybeans and other

feed. Better late than never, the Administration this year freed up more land for planting. Only if the Government continues to expand domestic farm production will the nation be able to beat the high cost of eating—and help meet the needs of an increasingly hungry world."

Tribune had pointed out the growing crisis on the food front throughout the world for nearly one year now. *Tribune* had also endeavoured to point out that this world-wide sweep of inflation and economic crisis was likely to affect Sri Lanka—and that this country had to take corrective and preventive steps to ensure what production it could until the world crisis blew over. This, at least, would have minimised the crisis in the island. But for a long time the Government did not have its eyes focussed on production: it was more keen about implementing certain *doctrinaire* policies with a radical flavour—and this has led to a situation where production has suffered.

And now late in the day, there is a hue and cry about increased production, especially food production. Income tax exemptions for paddy production are being thought of just now. It should really have had a greater priority than tax exemptions for tourism and other "industries" which are not vital to the life of the nation. The SLBC has also now waken up to the fact that drought and food shortages (including famine conditions) had overtaken many parts of the world: western central Africa, cen-

tral India, Indonesia and several other countries.

Tribune had repeatedly written about this several months ago, and a top Government VIP had told *Tribune* that the paper was "alarmist" and that this kind of thing would not happen in Sri Lanka. Where it was not drought, it was a man-made crisis as in the USA, brought about by policies which were known to be suicidal and disastrous.

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IDA LOAN TO INDIA

The International Development Association, the soft-lending affiliate of the World Bank, has granted a loan of 25 million dollars for development of small-scale industries in India. The loan would be made available for import of capital goods for small-scale industries, Chief Controller of Imports and Exports S G Bose Mullick said in New Delhi while addressing the Federation of Association of Small Industries of India. The loan would be routed through the industrial Development Bank of India, a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India. The State finance corporations, which would receive finance from the IDBI, would be able to give loans to small-scale industrial units in free foreign exchange for import of capital goods.

SHAMBA

Working With A Mammoty

MAY 25-27

by ANATORY BUKOBA

May 25,

For me it was a day with the mammoty, the handle heavy but soft. So that the iron ring of the mammoty seemed to bite into it, the whole so heavy that gravity did most of the work in the actual movement of clearing the ground. By the end of the day I was really too tired to lift that mammoty any more. While clearing, my mind is fully occupied with what I am doing, not day-dreaming but thinking of and pondering what it is I am clearing away, wishing I know the name of each plant, and, when digging out roots, wondering how much the mammoty will stand for, it is then that the shaft or handle works loose. While all this is going on, I spare a thought for the house to see that no intruder takes me unaware, and wonder what is going on elsewhere, for it would be no good if any of the others did his work in a way that would not do, for it is difficult to have to ask a man to undo anything he has done, if that was actually possible, and if it was, what a waste of time.

We seem to have a forest of trees on one side of the house, a forest all sprung up in a few minutes. On each of these trees a bitter gourd vine will climb and for some reason it was judged better

to leave the trees' own leaves. I must say the total effect is most impressive.

The part of the bed where the beans, the lady's fingers, the water melon, the *labbu* and the cucumber were planted was thoroughly weeded, the person doing it using a short stick to prise the grass out. The effect of all this is really good. I was quite ashamed of our vegetables before.

A few of our tomato plants were transplanted. I thought they were getting too big, and that the bigger they were, the more of the plants there would be to within the sun when the actual operation took place. There was a contrary opinion which said they would fare better when bigger, so we compromised by moving only a few. To protect these from the sun we stuck a bushy branch of leaves on the sunny side of each. It is the morning sun that will get them, but afternoon they will be in the shade.

We have still more seeds to plant; more papaw which we eat every day, buying a fruit for ten, fifteen or twenty cents, some water melon, again from a fruit, I bought for thirty cents, more beans, of two varieties to judge from the difference in the seed; some *wattakka*;

some lime, and six mangoes, which we buy at about fifteen cents a fruit.

May 26,

Another day of clearing it was for me. The mammoty handle did work loose, and it was loose, again by the end of the day. Some of the roots I dug out were bigger than any I tackled yesterday; I find the work restful, and I had occasion this evening to recall seeing the head of Christ Church, Oxford, commonly called the House, came into his study with his boots and hands covered with mud from gardening. Winston Churchill preferred laying bricks. Each little place cleared opens up a new vista, particularly so on undulating ground. The second hillock I referred to so long ago is now becoming more clearly defined as I am approaching it directly.

The tomato plants we moved yesterday seem to have survived, and we were busy getting another bed ready for more tomatoes. The earth has to be sifted carefully by hand to get out the grass and its roots and seed. I have mentioned before the weed that looks like grass, and carries its seed near its roots. It grows profusely here. It is also a herb. I keep coming across *pol palla* plants, and these I leave on the ground.

Working as we do, we have coffee often. It serves as a break and helps to keep us going. It is hard on the sugar but for our own health we reduce the quantity of sugar. It will be a nice day

The One-Acre Farm

when we got round to having cows, and have fresh milk instead of the condensed milk we have now.

There was a slight drizzle today which did not last long, and we watered everything this evening as usual. It is still the old haul from the river.

We have frogs in our cadjan house, and what a noise they make. When we throw them out with a stick, they take it almost passively, making no noise, and somehow keep their dignity. One day we found a snake eating a frog in the house in the middle of the day. Thanks to some bungling the snake got away. A snake was killed in the house today. Severed, the head crawled away, but we got it again outside.

One of us, a non-swimmer although he is learning fast, was nearly drowned the other day. He got his rescuer round the neck and they both went under. Fortunately, the current separated them, and both escaped a watery death.

We are saving so many seeds, we hope to start selling them soon.

May 27,

What a day it was for upsets. In a venture like this, you must, either make up your mind to manage with little capital, or to do nothing at all. The alternative in the case of most people is to swell the so-called ranks of the unemployed or, as I would rather put it, the list of the employed, for, in a free society, such as ours is still, I think, one man getting a job means doing

another out of one. I seem to remember hearing it said that West Germany and Australia have no unemployed. I wonder if this is really so. Under the communist or socialist system, you have direction of labour. It is not something I like. The alternative seems to be for people to become self-employed in groups.

There is another fact to this matter. Even a group of people would want something to keep going on until they were established. The easiest way is when they all

have some money to bring along with them to a venture. Now it is not easy to find adventurous people with money. They may be adventurous with their money, but hardly with their time, for their time means a more personal commitment, which few are willing to do. That is why some thoughtful men have so little time for philanthropists; they think they are a fraud. So, people who want to be self-employed, and those who are prepared to work in groups with other like-minded people have

JAPAN REPORTS EXTREMELY HIGH RADIOACTIVITY IN AIR, RAIN

Singapore July 2,

Japan and South Korea today reported extremely high radioactivity contents in the air above their territory following last week's Chinese nuclear test, but said there was still no danger to human health. The Japanese Government radioactivity counter-measures headquarters in Tokyo said dust collected at high altitudes over northern Japan during the past two days contained radioactivity between 1,500 to 3,000 times higher than normal. It added that the radioactive content in rain falling on the west coast of Japan over the week end was between 20 and 30 times higher than normal. But that it was not dangerous enough to require any countermeasures. The air over Seoul was today found to have a radioactive content of about 2,000 times, higher than normal, about three times higher than the previous record after the fifth Chinese test in 1966, the South Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute reported.

In Canberra, a spokesman for Prime Minister Gough Whitlam said today Australia was not contemplating any action in the international court over Chinese nuclear tests.

Commenting on a remark by Defence Minister Lance Barnard that Australia would consider a court action, particularly if there was any indication that China would continue tests, the spokesman noted that China did not recognise the international court. Also because of the wind movement and latitude, Australia could not prove nuisance in its own territory against China as it believed it could against France.

to be prepared to commit themselves as well as their money; and if they only commit their money, then I think I am right in saying that they become more capitalists. That is why I am against public companies.

When you have no adventurous people available, you have to fall back on people who may commit themselves, but have no money to bring with them. Some may have some special, or even a general, sort of ability, others may have goods and chattels to bring along with them; but the rub comes when they cannot bear the burden of their own support, when someone else has to supply the bread. They have been admitted into the circle of the self-employed, but they have to be fed at another's expense. It gives rise to all sorts of problems, and the test of this venture will be to see if they can be resolved. There is often a conflict between dignity and duty because there is no real responsibility.

Some good leaders do not have vision, and men who have vision do not always make good leaders. There is another conflict here. If you have the vision, you must have good leaders, too, and good leaders can only be had at a price. They must have some dedication to the vision, if the price is to be eschewed. If there is not this, they will not come.

If you have really very little capital, by which I mean money and not much prospect of earning it as you go along with the start of your venture, then it seems to

KILLER No. 1

A NEW DISEASE TAKES ITS TOLL

By CANAX

While everybody is busy fighting cancer. I hear there's a new disease in town that is almost ten times as dangerous, and all efforts to come to grips with it so far have proved futile. It tends to strike from out of the blue and does not, judging from available data, confine itself to any particular age group, or area. Young or old, rich or poor, so long as there's the faintest flicker of life, and wherever one may be in the 25,000 square miles of the island, one remains a potential — and helpless — target.

Sort of scares the hell out of one, doesn't it? And here was I thinking that with the elusive virus we had reached the end of the long line of diseases that man is unfortunately heir to. Defeat cancer, I told myself (and a few of my friends in medical cir-

me that the only thing you can do is to combine a little agriculture with your project, not biting off too much at once and concentrating on buying food provisionally for your immediate needs. That will at least keep the wolf from the door. It will not buy your clothes, but you will in the last resort at least have something to fall back on later if you hit a hard time financially.

cles), and there was nothing to stop us living forever.

Alas, it's not as simple as all that. We defeat one disease only to have another takes its place, like it happens in the case of Governments.

The Medical Research Institute has, on the evidence available to it, ruled out the possibility that the new affliction is from Outer Space, brought in unwittingly, and as an undetected stowaway, by our high-flying astronauts.

If it will make you sleep any better I will reveal the MRI's assurance to leave no stone unturned in its search for a permanent cure. I offered to help in any way I could, but the Institute declined with thanks, saying it had enough stones to keep turning for a long time to come.

The major effort at the moment is on developing an effective vaccine (using bovine victims of the same malady) that will immunise the population against the dreaded CTB and stop it dead in its tracks before it becomes Sri Lanka's Number-One Killer. Or dethrone it if it has.

Unlike 'flu, said a medical researcher, you can't consider yourself in the pink merely because you never catch CTB because the chances are fifty-fifty that CTB will catch you

—between now and your next birthday. Or the one after that.

One of the temporary counter-measures suggested by the Ministry of Health is that people should at all time, whether awake or asleep, observe the Scouting motto: 'Be Prepared!' The Ministry's helpful and easy-to-follow guide includes such alternatives as:

* If you're on the road and you feel CTB coming on (hardly different to the way you feel a cold coming on, so you can't miss it) take prompt preventive action.

The best known method so far is to climb the nearest tree for, remember, the infection keeps spreading strictly at ground level. But in your excitement, don't forget your prayers. It's been known to help build up one's resistance in emergencies.

* If you're in your home, or even in someone else's, when you get the feeling you're about to succumb to CTB, abandon house and home (so much easier if it isn't yours) and run as fast as your feet will take you. When a CTB epidemic is imminent, that's hardly the time to get sentimental about one's house, however humble it may be. Diseases are no respectors of persons, and CTB is no exception, only in this case it is no respecter of property, either. If you fail to make a quick getaway, you're foolishly throwing away a chance to live—and run another day.

* Don't ever make the mistake of letting your curiosity get the better of you

and waste precious time standing still trying to figure out what that big black ball of smoke hurtling your way really is; it is not a Nimbus-cloud come down to earth on a social call, so you might as well start running.

The Ministry spokesman confessed that the major problem was the lack of positive identification. They hadn't a clue whether CTB was a bacterial or viral infection, or if it was something else again.

Because of the Uncertainty, the Government was making a two-pronged attack on the invader. While the medical operation was being conduc-

ted under the overall supervision of the MRI, the non-medical campaign, by far the larger of the two, was being mounted from a special complex set up for the purpose at Kirula Road.

In an exclusive interview embargoed for publication till midnight every day, the PRO at the Kirula Road headquarters said, "We decided not to ignore the non-medical aspects of this grave problem because it is hard to imagine any virus as vicious as this. While, say, chicken-pox merely scars you, and that too temporarily, CTB hits you, and its effects are all too often permanent..

TRAINED SERVANTS

At Fort Lee, Virginia, the U.S. Army maintains a special school where it trains hundreds of enlisted men each year in special military skills. Among the skills taught are ash-tray emptying, dog walking, ice carving, bar tending, gourmet cooking, bed making, and bathroom cleaning. Graduates of the Fort Lee "charm school" are promptly assigned as personal servants to Army generals.

The General Accounting Office reports that 1,722 enlisted men are now employed as military servants by the armed forces, at a cost of \$ 13 million a year in pay and allowances. They work for 970 generals and admirals. Brigadier generals and rear admirals have to struggle along with only one "enlisted aide", but members of the Joint Chiefs are assigned six or eight. For some reason or other, ninety-eight per cent of the Navy's military servants are Filipinos. In the Marine Corps, sixty-five per cent are black. The brass are equal opportunity employers.

The Pentagon explains that generals and admirals (who are paid up to \$43,000 a year) could not be induced to remain on active duty if it were not for such little perquisites as personal servants; that the aides relieve officers of "those minor tasks and details which, if performed by the officer himself, would be at the expense of his primary and official duties," that it is, therefore, "a good deal for the taxpayers"—and perfectly proper.

—Progressive

"We're working on the theory that CTB is not a disease in the strict medical sense of the word," he went on. "As the WHO will confirm, the world couldn't possibly do without diseases, for they have a useful role to play. But then most diseases follow a predictable pattern, some of them picking on the old and infirm, while others go for the over-fed and still others confine themselves to the under-fed. It's really a continuing example of the survival of the fittest, which is quite in order if you remember that we all have to go sometime.."

"But unlike most diseases, CTB is indiscriminate in its choice of victims, and the WHO has expressed alarm at the long-term prospect of Sri Lanka having survivors who wouldn't be the fittest by any test if CTB was allowed to go unchecked."

The WHO's thinking on the new threat to the country's well-being seemed to be that CTB was not viral in origin, for extensive on-the-spot observations made by its trained personnel had thrown up a curious phenomenon never before observed by the Organisation during all its world-wide operations.

Viruses were known to move about freely, said the PRO, but they showed a marked preference for air travel, whereas CTB was observed to confine itself exclusively to road travel, which seemed to rule out the virus theory.

Every report seemed to agree that CTB was prevalent only on roads and that it was known to have a massive

destructive capability, armed as it was with dangerous pneumatic-tyred wheels—invariably four, sometimes even six. The milder strain of CTB had four, while the more virulent double-decked variety totted six of them.

Asked what the non-medical approach to the problem was going to be, the PRO said, "We're thinking of launching a crash-programme."

I winced at his choice of words, but he went on regardless "...because we feel one good crash deserves another."

He went on to suggest that, in his personal view, CTB's virulence might possibly be the result of jealousy and a dangerous attempt at oneupmanship, sort of trying to 'Keep up with the Viruses.' Getting about by road was much slower than getting about by air, and there was nothing anybody could do about it, not even CTB.

He was only thinking aloud, he said, but what he would like to do was to try and get the message across to the CTB vermin—be it bacterial, viral or just plain human—that if God wanted CTB to fly He would have given it wings.

Asked if he had any advice to offer people, he said, "This may sound somewhat extreme, but I favour immediate evacuation of all built-up areas. The safest place for people to go is into the jungles. It's been done before, and although the mortality rate may have been high during April '71, there wasn't a single reported CTB casualty."

SEX SCANDAL

The London Conservative newspaper *Sunday Telegraph* was shocked by the new "sex scandal" involving once again only Tory government members and M.P.s. To set its own mind and those of its readers at ease, the paper thought up an explanation "This," it wrote, "does not necessarily imply higher moral standards in opposition, merely that the events which have caused concern have taken place in a different and much more costly social milieu than that normally frequented by Labour M.P.s".

* * *

ALCOHOLICS GALORE

New Yorker, Douglas Stewart McKelvy, who had in his day inherited a fortune, spent his life in restaurant and bars. When he died recently, he left a will which stunned his relatives. For he donated goodly sums to his favourite bars on the condition that they defray the cost of liquid refreshments for their patrons until such sums shall be exhausted. The manager of one of these bars, called Gregory's Corner, quickly devised a way how to make money on that. He announced that he would throw free parties for regular patrons and started a guest book. The number of customers has increased considerably since then.

CHRONICLE

June 17 - 20

A Diary of Events in Sri Lanka and the World compiled from English - language dailies published in Colombo.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17: The *Observer* led with a front story that the Attorney General had sent a communication to the Speaker that some of the provisions of the Lake House Takeover Bill violated the Constitution. After nearly twenty years, permits were being issued to capture elephants, as it was reported that several herds in isolated areas were destroying cultivated crops—in the Ratnapura district, Uda Walawe, Hambantota and the Deduru Oya areas: so far about three permits had been issued on payment of Rs. 2000 for the capture of each elephant, and the actual capturing has to be done under the supervision of the officials of the Wildlife Department to ensure that no injury was caused to the animals during capture. The Constitutional Court had begun its sittings to hear objections to the Lake House Bill and Counsel made submissions. The *Weekend* reported that the Ceylon Government Railway was planning to acquire a Hovercraft to ferry passengers from Sri Lanka to India across Palk Straits. The UNP was streamlining itself under J. R. Jayewardene, to get a new image: it will take a new orientation in its relationship with the masses and is reorganising its affiliations: regional branches would in future have a big say in the affairs of the Party. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi arrived in Belgrade on a state visit and was expected to discuss the forthcoming non-aligned summit at Algiers. It was reported that the US was determined to show Brezhnev when he visited the USA "democracy in action" until his eyes popped. Saigon accused the Viet Cong of ceasefire violations within a few days of the signing of the new agreement. Mr. John Conally, who recently joined the Nixon administration as an honorary adviser to the White House, is reported to have threatened to resign probably owing to the impact of the Watergate disclosures. Soviet leader Brezhnev left Moscow yesterday on his way to Washington to open his talks with Nixon on Monday June 18: he arrived in the US capital today and

spent a quiet day at Camp David after a long talk with Dr. Kissinger.

MONDAY, JUNE 18: All daily papers were full of reports of the proceedings of the Constitutional Court in the last two days. The Director of Establishments has reminded all government departments that the official word for Sri Lanka in Tamil was *Illankai* and that this had to be scrupulously adhered to. The Minister of Agriculture and Lands wanted more foreign exchange to import fertiliser in time for the Maha season this year: the fertiliser requirement for this Maha was double that of last year because the target for the forthcoming Maha was set at 59 million bushels the highest ever: the Ministry wanted to have at least 95,000 tons of fertilisers before the season started in September: the Government was negotiating with Japan for a yen credit to finance this import. The Department for the Registration of Persons was hoping to issue 500,000 new cards every year after the current main issue was over: at present only 3,500 new cards were being issued every day, but it was hoped to increase this to 30,000 a day with the clerical assistance the Army is rendering the Department. The *Sun* stated that Sri Lanka was heading for a textile crisis: there were to be no new imports and the local textile mills could produce only 43 per cent of the island's requirements on a minimum utility basis for each person. In Washington, former White House lawyer Dean gave explosive testimony before a closed session of the Senate Watergate Committee that Nixon was "knee-deep in the Watergate cover-up" and that he had promised to provide Rs. one million dollars hush money—this testimony had been leaked out to the press. Mrs. Indira Gandhi declared in Belgrade that she would seek to establish a durable peace with Pakistan and maintain harmony on the subcontinent. The Nixon-Brezhnev summit talks began today in Washington.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19: The Observatory reported that there had been "slight rain" in the Castlereagh-Mousakelle area during the 24 hours ending at 8.30 am yesterday. The papers reported details of the submissions made by Counsel before the Constitutional Court in the Lake House takeover case. The National Savings Bank will in future will provide

loans for house-building. The Sun reported that the consumption of Milk Board milk had dropped sharply: sales are estimated to have dropped by over 30 per cent: the main decrease was the sales from the booths. The Government Agents of each administrative district has been appointed the Competent Authority for the implementation of the regulation governing the cultivation of food crops framed under the emergency laws: they have been empowered to take possession of lands that have not been cultivated in accordance with the regulations: such lands would be given to cultivators for food production: GAs have been instructed to collect all information on uncultivated lands, and also to delegate powers to implement these regulations to Additional GAs, AGAs, Divisional Assistant GAs and DROs. The Sri Lanka State Trading (Drugs) Corporation will have the sole monopoly for importing all drugs and pharmaceuticals from July 1: private drug importers will not in future import any drugs—they can however continue to import veterinary requirements and plasters: the country's drug requirements are about Rs. 30 million every year. The demand by a section of the GCSU leadership that every state employee should get an additional allowance of Rs. 100 per month was described as an "election gundu" by the other section of the leadership in the current election tussle in the Union. Fighting was still going on in Vietnam despite the second truce agreement. Indian states lying on the upper reaches of the river Brahmaputra, like Assam, were hit by devastating floods as the snow on the Himalayas melted. Dean linked Nixon with the break-in to the Ellsberg office. Chancellor Brandt declared at a meeting yesterday that peace in Europe was more important than German unity. The Nixon-Brezhnev talks were reported to be going on in the most cordial atmosphere.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20: Submissions were concluded before the Constitutional Court yesterday in the Lake House case. The Attorney General had sent two letters to the Court in which he had stated that he was not appearing for the Government because his wife owned a few shares in ANCL Ltd. and that she was related to the owners

and directors of the Compray: in the second letter he had stated that the letter sent to the Speaker earlier did not contain any positive opinion, but that in view of what he thought about the validity of the Bill, he felt that the matter should be referred to the Constitutional Court. The Minister for Irrigation, Power and Highways, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, and the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, had taken part in a ceremony in Au. adhapura praying for rain: that some ancient rites were followed in this connection. The Sun reported that the Minister of Justice, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, had told a correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* that he was proud of the Press Council Bill and that other countries would soon follow Sri Lanka's example in this matter. It was reported that one policeman had died and that several had been injured when a mob including some Navy personnel had attacked the police station at Polonnaruwa: the government had ordered a top-level investigation into this incident which had taken place last Monday night, June 17. According to the Auditor General, Ceylon owed foreign countries, Rs. 333,811,413 to the end of December, 1971: that foreign borrowing had stood at Rs. 411,517,308 as at December 31, 1970: however short-term borrowing from banks and credit institutions during the year had amounted to Rs. 820,930,170 bringing the total amount outstanding to Rs. 1,232,447,473: of this Rs. 896,636,065 was repaid leaving a balance of Rs. 333,811,413. Madame Teng Ying-Chao, wife of the Chinese Premier Chou En lai, has disclosed to a delegation of American Women in Peking that the CIA knew of Lin Piao's death before Russia knew about it. Mrs. Indira Gandhi had gone to Canada from Yugoslavia on a state visit.

For News Behind The News

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

ANTICIPATORY SOCIALISM

by
Milton Mayer

The world is no longer what it was. And the America of the Pilgrim Fathers is no more. A new world of youth has grown up everywhere cynical about the standards elders had set up and still strive to maintain. The article we publish on this page, with acknowledgements to the liberal-democratic monthly, *The Progressive*, (Chicago, Illinois), throws revealing light on the thinking of a section of American youth, written with well-known Milton Mayer's punch and vigour. In a country like Sri Lanka, which has had a whole series of branded socialism, i.e. efficient socialism, democratic socialism, bandaranaiké socialism, senanayake socialism, unip socialism, sifp socialism, etc. etc., the term "anticipatory socialism" should cause no alarm. The article will tell all—and it will be realised that much of what passes off for socialism in this island is nothing more than the "anticipatory socialism" Milton Mayer writes about. The word *rip-off* has many Sri Lankan synonyms, rather counter-parts in idiom. -- Editor

I have it from usually—hell, invariably,—reliable sources that the *ripoff* (known among the kids as Anticipatory Socialism) has not subsided with the subsidence of some of the other antics of the Movement such as the manufacture, distribution, and detonation of plastic bombs. My most invariably reliable source is my friend Harry (at twenty-two one of the kids). Harry explained it all to me while I hung on to my watch.

"You needn't worry", said Harry, who has been *ripping off* since he was twelve, and has never been grabbed. "Nobody who is anybody in the Movement would ever rip off a friend. That's the Code. We're after the Soulless Corporations. You may be soulless, but you're not a Corporation."

I was surprised to learn that the *ripoff* had not subsided. "It's because it's non-revolutionary," said Harry. "It's no more revolutionary than Nixon. Nixon *rips off* the ITT and the Watergate and the Wheat Deal and the Milk Trust and there's nothing revolutionary about it. He does his thing, we do ours. Come to think of it, we do his—in a small way, of course".

I asked Harry why the Anticipatory Socialists had not all of them been grabbed by the house dicks. Harry laughed, not at all hollowly. "If they'd grabbed all of us," said Harry, "we'd keep coming, like the Mongol hordes. But they don't. They can't. There aren't nails enough to nail down anything. You could take a house away, and nobody would know the difference. You put a great big

ham in the bottom shelf of the shopping cart in the supermarket and load up the top shelf with a hundred little items and go breezing through the checkout during the rush hour. There's nothing to it.

"Besides," he went on, "suppose they grab you. If you're white, they push you around a little and turn you loose. If you're black, they push you around a lot and turn you loose. They don't want to persecute the Young, do they? The Young are big spenders, and they're going to grow up to be bigger."

I asked Harry about the Soulless Corporation. My old man was a righteous old man, but he hated the railroad (which in his day was the Soulless Corporation). Every time he rode the railroad he *ripped off* a Pullman towel and agreed with the conductor that I was marvelously big for my age. Nowadays the Corporation is the Government (the Government above all), the telephone company, the gas company, the electric company, the air line, the lawyer, the doctor, and, if you can find one, the corner grocer.

I told Harry that I didn't understand about the corner grocer, who was trying to stay alive in the supermarket world. "So are we all," said Harry. "The corner grocer is a Mini-Mart. You think he isn't a *ripoff* artist himself?—Get hep, man. They all sell you dog meat for hamburger. It's a case of dog eat dog."

I told Harry about my young friend Jake, who, with a couple of other superan-

REPORTAGE

They Made The Wheels Turn

From a Press Conference held by V. Kalinin,
Economic Counsellor of the USSR

by T. JAYASURIYA

nuated kids, cooked themselves a Thanksgiving dinner with a couple of turkeys they'd liberated from a turkey farmer who was losing money. "Too bad," said Harry, "but it's common American sense that the turkey farmer ought to get out of the business if he's losing money. Jake just gave him a nudge in the right direction."

As for Anticipatory Socialism, Harry conceded that it wasn't the orthodox variety of Socialism advocated by Eugene Victor Debs, of whom Harry (though he's a college dropout) hadn't heard. "Do you know," said Harry, "my old man says that my grandfather was an actual Socialist when he came over from the old country? No body ever talks about Socialism any more, except the ripoff artists in the Kremlin when they rip off a place like Czechoslovakia. Anticipatory Socialism, like Participatory Democracy, is a different thing altogether. Strictly American, USA."

Harry, who spent a couple of thousand dollars in Europe last summer, says that light-hearted larceny is peculiarly, and admirably, American. The Europeans, he says, are greedy, covetous, small-minded, and disagreeable, but they leave their fruit and vegetables out in front of the store when they shut down for lunch and nobody rips them off. "They don't know," said Harry, "what freedom is all about. They're un-American. Think of the stuff you stole as a kid, or the corners you cut on your income tax now. Think, too, of the crummy guarantee on

"Soviet Union gives extensive economic and technical aid to 45 developing countries. At present 800 major industrial projects are being constructed in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Out of them 318 are already in operation" said Valeri Kalinin, Soviet Economic Counsellor in Sri Lanka, at a press conference held in Colombo recently.

In emphasising the sincere nature of Soviet aid, V. Kalinin cited the example of the Aswan Dam built in Egypt with Soviet assistance. It should be recalled here that when the United States which gave false promises to assist this project earlier, turned its back on Egypt, it was the Soviet Union that came forward readily to help her. In fact, it is not this promptness on the part of the USSR that should be taken into account here. Then what?

FOR the capitalist countries who employ stick and carrot tactics, the rendering of aid is a means of political and economic penetration. They always oppose the progressive development of independent economics of these countries. Profit extraction is their sole aim.

On the contrary, the USSR and other socialist countries do not import capital through their aid programmes. Nor do they intend to keep the developing countries in economic and political bondage.

• Dealing with Sri-Lanka-Soviet economic cooperation

the crummy car, or the aspirin in Dristan, or the tax-free millionaire, or the million-dollar campaign for a thousand-dollar office—that's American, man. We kids are chips off the old block George Washington used for chopping up the cherry tree."

V. Kalinin traced its history back to 1958, when the government of the late S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, in an attempt to alter the country's traditional pro-imperialist course, signed an inter-governmental agreement on economic co-operation between the two countries. Under this agreement a long-term credit of Rs. 200 million was granted to Sri Lanka on most favourable terms to develop the vital branches of country's industry.

SPECIAL MENTION should be made here about the Kelani tyre factory. Not only because it operates with an enormous profit, but also for the fact that it happens to be the first major project ever started in this country based on local raw material. Sri Lanka being one of the world's main producers of natural rubber, remained a mere supplier of this valuable

raw material to the world capitalist market until the commissioning of this factory. Then the country imported tyres, manufactured out of its own exported rubber with an additional expenditure of huge sums of valuable foreign exchange.

Now this factory produces certain (18) types of tyres to meet the domestic requirements fully. Apart from that it has enabled to earn some millions of rupees in hard currency by exporting tyres to Burma and Bangla Desh. In 1972 tyre corporation earned a profit of ten million rupees and saved another 18 million rupees in foreign exchange, that used to be spent in the past for importing manufactured tyres.

All industrial projects started here, with Soviet aid and under the guidance of Soviet experts, are making huge profits. Is it not a striking feature that distinguishes Soviet aid from the aid coming from the capitalist countries?

While most of the industrial projects in the state sector have become white elephants of the nation, Oruwala Steel Plant, and the Mutwal flour mill built with Soviet aid, have earned in 1972 a sum of 12.9 million in hard currency.

Under an agreement reached between Sri Lanka and the USSR in 1972, the Engineering Corporation will receive free a complete factory with the necessary machinery for the building of pre-fabricated houses. A power project on the Mahaveli and a number of hydro-electric stations as well as several other indus-

trial development projects are to be soon started with the aid and know-how from the USSR. Soviet Union is also assisting Sri Lanka in clearing jungle areas of the dry zone for the cultivation of cotton and sugar cane, which can be used as raw material in local industry.

OF NO LESS importance is the Soviet assistance we receive in prospecting for oil and natural gas in Mannar and Jaffna peninsula. It is rather an interesting story. The preliminary prospecting work for oil in the North was carried out by French experts. But according to them "it was not advisable" to continue further exploration. Then the Soviet experts were invited for a re-checkup. After a preliminary investigation they submitted a report of their findings to the government of Sri Lanka. They do not preclude the possibility of striking oil in this area.

Of course prospecting for oil involves heavy labour consumption and risk. But according to the Soviet experts the attempt is worthwhile and "advisable". Already a contract has been entered into, to carry out the geological survey in 4 stages. The first team of Soviet experts to begin seismic survey will arrive in Sri Lanka very soon. Anyway best hopes can be pinned on this project for we know very well of the capabilities of the man who handles the job. It is Professor Kalinin, the well known Soviet geologist who is also responsible for the oil extraction in India, who is in charge of the whole project.

In conclusion it may be said that the Soviet economic and technical aid to Sri Lanka will constitute a major factor in the independent progress of the country's economy, which is striving to shake off the colonial backwardness.

* * *

FISH RETURN TO CLEANED-UP LONDON RIVER

Londoners are enjoying more than half as much sunshine again as they had during the 1950s. And it's not the weather man they have to thank for this—but the success of anti-pollution measures in making the capital's skies clearer and the air better to breathe. Wildlife, too, has benefitted from the clamp-down on industrial effluence and domestic coal use. More than 50 species of fish have been identified passing through the Pool of London where there were only 40 in 1968 and none at all in 1957. There had been large increases in the numbers of birds breeding in the parks of central London during recent years and of species of ducks wintering on the Thames, said the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr. Geoffrey Rippon. "We can therefore claim" he told, the annual dinner of the Wildfowl Trust in London recently, "that the measures we are taking to deal with pollution are of real benefit to wildlife."

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS

The Batticotta Seminary

by

James T. Rutnam

Jaffna College, at Vaddukoddai in Jaffna, originally known as Batticotta Seminary, was founded on July 22, 1823. This week we publish the first instalment of series on the history of *Batticotta Seminary* by James T. Rutnam, whose great grandfather, John Sinnakuddiar Tappan, was one of the first fortyeight students of Batticotta Seminary when it was opened on 22nd July, 1823.

THE BATTICOTTA SEMINARY of the Christian Mission known as the American Ceylon Mission in Jaffna, Ceylon, was established on 22nd July 1823. According to J. V. Chelliah, a pioneer historian of this institution, "it was variously called Central School, Academy, College and Seminary." It was originally decided upon to have the "College" in the town of Jaffna. Three days later, it is reported, the Mission had voted that the "Academy" should be temporarily situated at Batticotta. This decision too appears to have been changed and an attempt was made to buy a house in Jaffna town belonging to Mr. Moozart, a grandson of a former "Hoofd Administrateur" of Jaffna, for 1500 Rix dollars for the permanent establishment of the institution. This too was abandoned, and the site at Batticotta was decided upon eventually. The name of the institution declared officially in 1827 as the American Mission Seminary.

But the name that has survived in history is Batticotta Seminary. *Batticotta* is an unfamiliar English term for what we all know today as

Vaddukoddai, a little township at the far western end of the Jaffna peninsula. The Portuguese, Dutch, and the early British as well as other European and American settlers have pronounced and spelt Vaddukoddai as Batticotta with slight variations. Often *Batticotta* has been confused with *Batticoloa*, the sea-board capital of the Eastern Province of Ceylon.

According to de Queroz, the Portuguese historian, during the Portuguese times the Jesuit Mission had built a church dedicated to our Lady of Assumption at "Batecota." This church still stands, modified and repaired during the course of centuries, and hallowed by the association of generations of Christians of different denominations.

Baldaeus, the Dutch writer who produced his famous book in 1672, refers to this church, then serving the needs of the Dutch Reformed Christians, as being situated at "Batecotte". A beautiful picture of this "Kerch" and "Kerch Huys" appears in Baldaeus's book. According to an inscription in Dutch found on the church it would

appear, as J. P. Lewis states that the church was "repaired" by the Dutch in 1678 during the administration of Jaffna by Laurens Pyl.

For the present purpose it would be sufficient for us to note that the Seminary that was established at Vaddukoddai in 1823 had from its very inception been integrated with this old established place of worship that was "ministered" as we shall discover, by some of the most benevolent, learned, energetic, and dedicated men who had over come from the West to the East.

II

THE FIRST of the remarkable men who came from America to Ceylon was Samuel Newell who landed at Galle in 1813 during the course of the "War of 1812" that was waged between the USA and the Great Britain following the Napoleonic conflict in Europe. Newell who reached Calcutta with the first batch of American Missionaries in 1812 was forced to quit the place by the East India Company. He then proceeded to Mauritius where he lost his wife and thereafter turned back to make another attempt to land in India, after stopping in Ceylon which he knew was governed by the Crown and not by the East India Company, and thus technically a realm where the Company's writ did not apply.

Rev. S. W. Howland in his "History of the American Mission", that appeared in the "*Ceylon Friend*" in 1891, does not confirm the familiar story that Newell on his way

to India was wafted to the shores of Ceylon by accident. Whatever that may be, Newell received a sympathetic welcome in Ceylon, despite the political tensions, from Governor Robert Brownrigg and Chief Justice Alexander Johnston.

Johnston who had lived with his father Samuel Johnston in Madras, Trichinopoly and Madurai since 1781 was a keen student of oriental culture. Indeed he could speak Tamil and Telugu fluently. At this time both Brownrigg and Johnston were concerned about the failure of Dutch Christianising efforts in Jaffna, a situation that was highlighted by Claudius Buchanan's report after his visits to Ceylon in 1806 and 1808.

Newell was therefore sent to Jaffna to study the position on the spot. Newell lost no time in reporting from Jaffna, as stated by Howland, to his Board in Massachusetts as follows: "Here, is every facility for spreading the gospel among the pagans. *The Governor is desirous that they should be instructed and would encourage every attempt of this nature.* The people have no particular objection to the Christian religion, and will not molest Missionaries, and the Government will protect them. Perhaps no portion of the heathen world possesses so many advantages for spreading the Gospel." (Italics added).

THERE was also another reason for selecting Jaffna. The East India Company as we have seen, despite the efforts of Grant, Wilberforce and several others in England,

was not disposed to allow the free entry of Missionaries to India, although this attitude came to be softened later. In these circumstances it is probable that Brownrigg, Johnston, Newell and others had sought a way for stepping on the continent of India from a point of vantage in the peninsula of Jaffna. This explains the remarks made by Howland that "one prominent reason for selecting Jaffna as a field of operations was its strategic position as the key to India, its inhabitants, speaking the same language as many millions of Southern India. This idea of entering India by way of Jaffna was carried into effect in 1834," as it will be observed later, "when the Madurai Mission was begun by missionaries catechists, and teachers from Jaffna."

The Board in Massachusetts known as the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, which was described by Emerson Tennent as "one of the most remarkable associations for the dissemination of Christianity that has existed since the time of the Reformation", responded meaningfully to this invitation, and sent a team of high-souled and devoted persons to this country.

III

THE "WAR OF 1812" was over with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in December 1814. The missionaries left Massachusetts the following year on the 13th October and arrived in Ceylon on the 22nd March 1816. The future first Principal, and indeed the founder, of the Batticotta

seminary, Daniel Poor, was one of them. He came with his wife and was accompanied by Mr. & Mrs. James Richards, Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Meigs, Mr. & Mrs. Horatio Bardwell and Mr. Edward Warren. Of these the Bardwells went over to Bombay. The rest stayed on for a few months in Colombo assisting other Christian Missions, and meantime learning Tamil under Gabriel Tissera, a son of Roman Catholic parents.

Gabriel Tissera was born on 1st August 1800, and was therefore, 16 years old at the time. He was a son of Phillippu and Maria Tissera of Colombo. He came to be described later by Rev. P. Percival as an individual who was looked upon by his contemporaries as "one of three native Christians whom all believed to be good men and true." Another Tamil young man, Franciscus Malleappa a son of Tironandar Francis Nonis Malleappa, a Tamil Proponent under the Dutch, also joined Tissera in teaching Tamil to the missionaries.

It is most likely that these two young men were students of the "native school" known as the Seminary at Hultsdorf, an educational institution that had replaced in 1804 Governor North's Schools at Wolvendhal that were conducted by Rev. J. H. C. Cordiner, Andrew Armour and Sergeant Thomas Supple for Sinhalese, Tamil and European boys. The Principal of the Hultsdorf Seminary, had befriended the missionaries, He was the Hon. and Rev. T. J. Twisleton, later in 1818 to become the first archdeacon of Colombo.

Tissera and Malleappa were good teachers, for Poor, no mean scholar himself, was able to preach in Tamil within a year or so of his learning the language. Soon the two Tamil youths were ready to accompany Poor and his colleagues, as their interpreters, to Jaffna. Warren left first arriving at Jaffna, travelling in a palanquin, on 11th July 1816.

In a historic letter to Wilberforce dated 13th June 1816 Brownrigg covers these events as follows:—

"When a foreign missionary, an American came to the island in 1813, his reception was such as to produce a letter of thanks from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, a copy of which I enclose. I will not enlarge on this subject, except merely to state that during the stay of that Missionary in Ceylon, I was placed in a very delicate situation, for I had reasons to apprehend that my protection of American Missionaries might involve me in some embarrassment with the East India Company's Government.

"The five American Missionaries announced in the Commissioners' letter are arrived, and I have just acceded to their request of establishing themselves in Jaffna, the Northern Province of this island."

For a time Poor and his friends stayed on in Jaffna, where they lived on the most cordial terms with fellow missionaries of other denominations. On 15th October 1816 Warren and Poor took up residence in Tellipalai.

Malleappa too went there. Richards and Meigs were given charge of Vaddukodai which they occupied on the 7th March 1817. Tissera was attached to this centre. Nicholas Peramandar and Mathew Philips, two pulpils of Rev. Christian Davis, a native of Tanjore sent by the Ceylon Government as early as 1800 as Superintendent of the schools in the peninsula, were also taken into the fold, Peramandar to serve at Tellipalai and Philips, who later became father-in-law to Rev. John Hensman, to serve at Vadukodai.

Conditions prevailing at this time are best described by Chelliah. "When the first Missionaries came to Jaffna," he relates, "there were only a few Tamil schools here and there, and only a few could read, and write with the stylo on ola, but very few could read the printed character with ease and fluency. The Missionaries, therefore, strove to raise up a reading population by establishing free vernacular schools in different villages. But they found that the desire of the people for education was so small, and their prejudice against missionary work so great, that it was a difficult task at first to induce parents to send their children to these schools. The teachers were, to begin with, necessarily Hindus, and it was difficult to procure even these. The first free schools were established at Tellipalai and Mallagam with 30 boys. These were taught to read and write the Tamil language and had instruction in small works of Tamil poetry and Arithmetic and Geography on the European plan.

They had, in addition, instruction in scripture. Some of the pupils who had studied under Rev. Mr. Palm, an L.M.S. Missionary, who had worked at Tellipalai before the advent of the Americans, were given assistance in the study of English."

"The Missionaries," we are told, "were not satisfied with the meagre education given in these free schools, and were anxious to attempt a more thorough system of training by keeping promising pupils entirely under their influence." They decided to start Free Boarding Schools, the first free Boarding School it is believed, in Asia. The children were slow in coming. Six small boys formed the first batch at Tellipalai. Another school was started at the other centre at Vaddukodai. With the extension of Mission at Uduvil, Pandateruppu and Manipay, Boarding Schools, too, for both sexes were established at these places. "The pupils" Chelliah states, "were boarded and clothed free, and their expenses were paid by individuals and associations in America. Names designed by the benefactors were given to the Pupils." Instruction at these Boarding schools was given in English and Tamil. The subjects included Scripture, Arithmetic Grammar and Geography.

(To be continued)

For News Behind
the News
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INTERNATIONAL-AFFAIRS

BY ARIEL

* DETENTE

* IRAN

* CHINA

THE CONFERENCE of 35 Foreign Ministers meeting in Helsinki to discuss problems of European Security have got under way. Each of the 35 Foreign Ministers have made their speeches, but it is what the Big Powers of the East and the West say that will matter. It is not clear as yet what the final outcome will be, but there is no doubt that it was a big achievement to bring all these parties together. Whilst the detente in Europe and the Atlantic zone was daily getting better, the tension in West Asia and Eastern Mediterranean continued to be bad with Israel and the Arab countries still at loggerheads. The USA and the USSR were not able to find a way out of the confrontation in this region, and at the Brezhnev—Nixon summit they agreed to disagree.

Another region of possible disagreement between the USA and the USSR is likely to be in the Persian Gulf. Iraq has been aligned to the Soviet Union for arms and other assistance for some years now, whilst Iran, maintaining friendly relations with the USSR, has bought arms from the USA on such a massive scale that Iran is now the most powerful military force in the region and bids to become one of the stron-

gest in Asia in the nearest future.

IRAN, "once one of the world's 20 poorest nations and now one of the 20 richest", in the words of its Prime Minister, Mr. Amir Hoveida, will soon be one of the strongest militarily, not only in Asia but in the world. Recent interviews given by the Shah disclose only part of the modern arms Iran is about to acquire to raise its present forces to the level of 300 most modern fighter-bombers armed with the latest laser-guided "smart" bombs, 100 C-130 troop transports, 700 helicopters and 1700 tanks. The strength of its navy is also becoming doubled. There is no doubt that Iran is already the dominant power in the Persian Gulf region on land, in the air, and at sea. It is probably already a big force in the Indian Ocean region also.

Iran's strategic location bordering the communist and Arab land mass and at the head of the sea lanes commanding 60 percent of the world's oil reserves makes such a role natural, even inevitable. Iran's population of 31 million is not very big, but its oil reserves are such that it makes it think and act big. The Shah has resurrected dreams of the empire carved out by the Darius and Cyrus, in ancient times and if one uses modern political terminology, present day Iran has a built-in desire for expansion territorially and otherwise. But even before any expansionary adventures, the Shah is also concerned understandably about the

security of his country. In an interview with *Newsweek*, sometime ago, he saw radicalism closing in on Iran from all sides, first the Soviet Union's treaty with India, then its pact with Iraq, and now the rebellion in Oman. He has seen Pakistan disintegrate. Iran is now giving Oman all military assistance and Pakistan full political support as well as a promise of armed aid in the event of internal troubles. Iran seems to consider that its outer defences begin in Pakistan and Oman, not to speak of Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

PRESIDENT BHUTTO paid an official visit to Iran between May 10-14 and the result was an understanding about close military co-operation. The nature and dimension of their collaboration in the defence field—either bilaterally or within the frame work of the west-sponsored CENTO military alliance—are likely to unfold in the coming months, with a focus on the "security" of the oil-rich Persian Gulf. It is also significant that CENTO has been revived with new vigour.

It is clear that a new power equation has emerged in South-west Asia. It has far-reaching implications for West Asia as a whole, and South Asia in particular. Earlier, Pakistan was the chief "agent" of the western powers in CENTO and SEATO. CENTO collapsed with the downfall of the earlier regime in Iraq, and SEATO weakened for a number of other reasons. But both organisations continued to exist on paper. But now, Iran has emerged as the chief

power in CENTO. Turkey has been a member of these blocs as an ornamental appendage, but Pakistan is of vital importance to CENTO and also NATO as a major strategic outpost overlooking South Asia. But with Pakistan losing its eastern wing, its value in Southeast Asian geopolitics has vanished. But Pakistan is still important so far as the Indian subcontinent and the Indian Ocean are concerned.

NOT MUCH attention has been paid in Sri Lanka about the emergence of this new Asian power, now known as Iran, earlier Persia. But China has recognised the importance of this shift in the balance of power. China's main obsession and enemy is the Soviet Union, and every action of Peking is determined by its reactions to Moscow. China has persistently attacked Russia without any restraint and in a recent press commentary went so far as to warn friends in the Middle East about "the new hegemonists who cast covetous eyes on the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf." To China, any reduction of tension on Russia's flanks only increase its own apprehensions about the Soviet Union. *That is why China's current diplomacy is to keep up, if possible, tension on all the borders of the Soviet Union in the hope that the pressure on the Chinese border will be kept under control.*

IMMEDIATELY before Brezhnev's visit to the USA and the Conference on European Security, the Chinese Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei paid a visit to France and Britain

and also Iran and Pakistan. China has made it clear that it wants to be friendly with all countries lying near the southern frontiers of the Soviet Union. Whilst in Britain and France, the Chinese Foreign Minister made it clear that China recognised the value of a strong Atlantic Alliance and an even stronger ECM, primarily as a bulwark against the Soviet Union, especially at a time when the USA was softening its cold war postures against the USSR. The Chinese Foreign Minister went so far as to tender advice to European Powers that they should approach the Conference on European Security with caution—because any lessening of tension in Europe would only increase the dangers to European powers, individually and collectively.

The European Powers did not take very kindly to Ching Peng-fei's comments on European matters, which some circles even interpreted as interference in the affairs of Europe by a distant power. Will the Chinese seek to influence countries nearer its borders like Burma, Thailand, Indonesia and even Malaysia, especially when there are large numbers of Chinese resident in these countries?

There was a rumpus recently in Japan in which it was alleged that members of a Chinese goodwill mission had sought to influence local opinion, against the Russians among other matters. It was even alleged that members of this delegation had utilised the freedom of movement allowed in a capitalist country to establish contact

with an illegal group, known as Rengo Sekigun, who are said to have been involved in bomb explosions in the streets of Japanese cities. This group is believed by the Japanese police to be Maoist. BUT the most interesting development was the support which China has begun to extend even to organisations like CENTO. David Bonavia, writing from Peking for the *London Times*, (vide *Ceylon Daily News*, June 30, 1973) stated:

"..Last week China voiced what seemed to be an unprecedented expression of support for the Central Treaty Organisation (Cento) which links Iran, Pakistan and Turkey with Britain and the United States. A press report on the meeting noted the warning by Sir Alec Douglas

DEMONSTRATORS

A new gas has been produced in Britain for the needs of the police or, to be more exact, for the dispersal of demonstrations. It is called CR. A person sprayed with it gets the feeling that his body is on fire. What is more, he goes temporarily blind. According to the Defence Ministry, its effect on human beings is far more powerful and lasting than that of its predecessor, CS. Reporting on this "novelty", the *London Daily Express* writes that it takes CR but a few minutes, to make people lose all desire to demonstrate.

Home, the Foreign Secretary, about the "expansionism" threat which CENTO must resist. The Chinese press also reported the organisation's call for an early release of Pakistani prisoners of war in India.

"Shortly afterwards Mr. Chl arrived in Iran. In speeches there he gave clear warnings about what the Chinese see as a Soviet threat to Iranian sovereignty. 'You have every reason to feel uneasy', he said.

"China now has a chain of friendly states reaching all the way to the Balkans along Russia's southern flank. This gives its airline access to East Europe and helps to block a physical link-up of Soviet and Indian forces in the area of the Indian Ocean."

China was at pains to impress upon Iran that it had her fullest support, even for CENTO, which China only a few short years ago had consistently and persistently damned as an imperialist booby trap to derigrate the sovereignty of countries in this region. Bonavia went on in his despatch to say:

"...China has also expressed concern at outside interference in the Persian Gulf. There are several other reasons why Iran is a vital link in China's chain of relations with countries in the Middle East. Closer relations between Iran and Pakistan could help to spread the burden now shouldered by China in providing economic and military aid to Pakistan. The amount of Chinese aid to Pakistan is believed to be second only to the aid to North Vietnam

—a respectable fraction of China's national product.

"Moreover Iran and China could collaborate in petroleum technology, a field in which China could doubtless use some assistance not linked to heavy capital involvement on the part of the big Western oil companies.

"A delegation of the Chinese Chemical Engineering Society recently toured refineries and petrochemical projects in Iran. Further links in the chain have been the recent visits by the Shah of Iran to Romania and Yugoslavia, both of which receive Chinese support in their efforts to remain independent of Soviet domination. Even North Korea is coming into this new set of alignments having recently established diplomatic relations with Iran and signed a scientific and cultural agreement with Pakistan."

China was not satisfied with making friends with Iran alone. It was also anxious to make friends with Iraq which has a military pact with the Soviet Union. Bonavia drew attention to the efforts so far made by China to woo Iraq. Bonavia stated: "A complicating factor is that friendship with Iran may make it harder for China to develop relations with Iraq, especially as that country is suspected of having tried to aid dissident Baluchis in both Iran and Pakistan. However, China has done what it can to maintain polite if not warm relations with Iran.

"Mr. Izzat Murtapha, a senior member of the Iraq Government, has been visi-

ting China as head of a medical delegation and may also have had political talks. Mr. Sarin Chhak, the Foreign Minister in the Government in exile of Prince Sihanouk, the deposed Cambodian leader has been visiting Iraq as a part of a campaign to win diplomatic support for the Prince's return to Cambodia and a cessation of American bombing there. This suggests a closer Chinese-Iraqi relationship in the future as relations between Prince Sihanouk and the Soviet leadership are bad."

Immediately after the second world war, international affairs was on a bi-polar basis of two cold war blocs—communists and anti-communists. This over-simplified differentiation, which the USA was able to enforce by its dominant position, has now disappeared, and a multi-polar world has emerged where there are a very large number of countries contending for a place in the sun—whilst four major groups have begun to emerge: around

ROYAL TROUBLES

The new Swedish Constitution will eliminate a lot of royal prerogatives. In an interview published in Newsweek Princess Christina complained: "People say: Oh, the King gets so and so many millions a year. But that means he has to keep up five big castles with restoration going on all the time. If you have an old house, you know what it means to repair it every year. And the heating bill—it's enormous!"

IN SRI LANKA TODAY

Thoughts on Two By-Elections: Dedigama and Colombo North

by
LANKAPUTRA

It is now clear that whoever sold the Government the idea that Dedigama would be a walk-over for the SLFP candidate sold it a pup.

There can be no doubt that the Government did call a snap by-election at Dedigama with the idea of scoring a big prestige victory and giving a boost to the morale of their supporters who are very much in need of such a morale-booster. Why else the haste in holding this by-election when there are other by-elections pending?

BUT what reason would those 'pundits' whose pull with the Government is in inverse proportion to their brain-power the USA, around the ECM, around the Soviet Union and around China. China, however much it seeks to deny that it wants to be a super-power, is keenly interested in denigrating the USSR even by prodding the USA and the ECM into much stronger anti-soviet postures than those now prevailing in the present atmosphere of detente. China would like another bi-polar world in which the USSR is eliminated, and China becomes the champion of communism to fight imperialism in the USA and Europe. But social imperialism, as the Chinese see it, was the bigger danger to their way of thinking. The bi-polarism of the Dulles era flopped ingloriously, and it is doubtful whether any new kind of bi-polarism will succeed in the present day world of detente and multi-polarism.

have adduced in support of their stupid claim? Probably this: that the Dedigama seat has always been won by the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake, and that on the only occasion that he gave the election a miss, that is in 1956, it was won with a handsome majority by an SLFP candidate. Q.E.D.

The 'pundits' apparently did not take into account the massive wave of sympathy still left for the UNP to capitalise on after Dudley's death, or to take into reckoning the fact that the only way the SLFP could counter this obvious factor was by putting off the by-election for as long as possible, not by hastening it.

And now they would have us believe that the only reason for the defeat of the SLFP candidate was organised thuggery by the UNP. Organised thuggery, my foot!

THE RESULTS of the Dedigama by-election only confirms what the previous four by-elections (at Ratnapura, Kesbewa, Puttalam and

Nuwara Eliya) held on the same day proved—that there is a 3 to 4 per cent shift away from the SLFP to the UNP. From the point of view of the SLFP, this is nothing to be alarmed about. But the fact of this disenchantment must be faced if suitable remedial measures are to be taken to halt the drift.

On the other hand, to close one's eyes to it or to indulge in self-deceiving excuses will only help to make the present drift a future landslide against the SLFP.

The SLFP can also console itself that, notwithstanding all the factors working against a Government in power, it actually increased its vote compared with its 1970 poll, though ever so slightly.

On the other hand, almost all the new votes registered after 1970 went to the UNP. This, too, should give the SLFP much food for thought—and action.

IT IS well-known that it is the new voters who have decided the fate of many a Government in Sri Lanka. In 1959 the late Mr. Bandaranaike gave the vote to the 18-year olds who exercised it for the first time in the 1965 general elections to give victory to the UNP. Then, they went all out again to turn the UNP out of office in 1970. The teenage vote has always been cast against existing governments. That is the lesson still to be learnt by governments in power.

The Dedigama poll also assumed importance for aro-

Two By-Elections

ther reason, namely that it was one of the strongholds of the insurgents in the 1971 uprising. But how exactly it has affected the result, it is difficult to say.

But one thing is clearer than anything else. That the polarisation of political forces is still round the United Front on the one hand and the UNP on the other.

There were some who thought that the two Independents who contested the Dedigama by-election would do better than Independents have done in the past. They obviously banked on the theory of "a plague on both your houses" working against the UNP and the SLFP at Dedigama.

But the result has proved otherwise. The two Independents polled a mere one percent of the votes polled by the UNP and SLFP candidates, proving the point that a so-called "third force" has still to come into existence in Sri Lanka.

AND NOW with the by-election at Dedigama over, all eyes will be on *Colombo North*.

Colombo North bears a certain resemblance to Dedigama in that it too has always been won by the UNP—except in 1956 when Mrs. Vivienne Goonewardene was elected as its member in that landslide victory for the SLFP and its no-contest pact allies. There again, her victory was won not over the

late Mr. Sugathadasa (who was then contesting Colombo Central) but against a lesser known UNPer.

Colombo North was once described by the late Dr. I. D. S. Weerawardena as "perhaps the most industrialised constituency" in the island. It has a strong working class population and is predominantly a Catholic constituency. This probably explains why the LSSP which has contested this seat many times won it only—and that too in a "landslide" election which gave the UNP only 8 seats in the whole country.

Ever since Mr. Sugathadasa changed over from Colombo Central to Colombo North, he has won the seat comfortably—except in July 1960 when his majority over Mrs. Goonewardene was a mere 144.

As a Minister in the last Dudley Senanayake Government (1965-70), Mr. Sugathadasa probably did so much for the electorate and strengthened his position there that not a single political party pitted a candidate against him in 1970, with the result that Mr. Sugathadasa got the biggest majority for the UNP in the whole island.

With Mr. Sugathadasa dead, the UNP, of course, will be hard put to it find a candidate to match his popularity and electioneering skills. But, personalities apart, there are many factors working in the UNP's favour.

For one thing, it must be remembered that even when

the UNP was trounced island-wise in 1970, it succeeded in winning a majority of seats in the city of Colombo itself—Colombo North, two in Colombo Central and one in Colombo South—against the three seats won for the United Front by the LSSP and CP—in Colombo Central, Colombo South and Borella.

WHEN THE UNP is so formidable an opponent to defeat even when there is a landslide against it in the country as a whole, the United Front after three years of its rule faces an uphill task to defeat any UNP contender.

But interest will be added to the forthcoming by-election at Colombo North by the fact that it will probably be the LSSP that will field a candidate there on behalf of the United Front. This will be the first time that this party will face a by-election after it took power together with the SLFP and CP in 1970.

This will also be the first by-election to be fought in a predominantly urban constituency, where the problems of rising costs etc. have been felt more severely than in the rural areas where by-elections have hitherto been held.

That is why the result at Colombo North will be looked forward eagerly by all observers of the local political scene to find out which way winds are blowing and with what intensity in the capital city of Sri Lanka.

IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

More On Tourism & Hotels

IS IT NOT TRUE that our revelations about the activities of the Ceylon Hotels Corporation and the Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental have many people to think about these matters? That a reader has sent us a note that the *Sun* had recently published an article which showed that M. S. Oberoi, a multi-millionaire hotel chain owner in India had completed the 850-room Sheraton-Oberoi Hotel in Bombay for rupees 6.5 crores or Rs. 65 million? That this makes the cost around Rs. 76,470 per room? That a room in the Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental has so far cost Rs. 2.04 lakhs? That more has to be spent on the Ceylon Intercontinental before it will have all the facilities for foreign tourists? That the cost of Rs. 2.04 lakhs has been worked out on a total cost of Rs. 52 million? That, in our view, the cost should really be taken as Rs. 55 million, but Rs. 3 million is not something worth quarrelling about when the business of tourism in Sri Lanka is under discussion?

That everything in Bombay costs more than in a small backwater town (comparatively speaking) like Colombo?

That it is therefore difficult to account for the greater expenditure on the Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental? That the finishing and the equipment are really not of the super luxury class? That some of them would be considered shoddy and cheap? That it must be also remembered that the World Bank report on tourism (expert Davies) had made it clear that a five star hotel building in Ceylon should not exceed Rs. 65,000 per room for viability considering the type of cheap charter traffic Ceylon enjoys? That the Rs. 2.04 lakhs per room in Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental is over-capitalisation with a vengeance? That this overcapitalisation has to be amortised in say 20 years to make it a viable operation which would require a high occupancy factor all the year round? That those who look 20 years ahead should realise that tourism is now subsidised by a 65% FEECs? That when this two-tier system of currency exchange rates is done away with then the economics of tourism in Sri Lanka will have to be examined once again? That sooner or later, Ceylon's currency has to fix a one-tier parity rate, or even float on a single rate?

That this two-tier rate cannot last long?

That if Sri Lanka is to survive in the modern world it has to fix a realistic exchange rate for its currency? That whether this will be done by devaluation downwards or revaluation upwards will depend on how the government is able to mobilise production? That with the overspending on hotel construction the prospects will be devaluation immediately rather than revaluation? That the present 65% FEECs bonanza makes Ceylon one of the cheapest places in the world for tourists? *And that this is at the expense of the local resident? That while the local person is burdened with the 65% FEECs, the foreign tourist gets a super-duper time with a plus-65% rate on his hard currency?* That it does not need a computer to work out the meagre benefits Sri Lanka gets out of this tourist business? That official propaganda makes it out that Sri Lanka will soon reach the moon in prosperity through tourism? That it was the UNP, during the fateful period of squandermania in the 1965-70 period, which began this crazy campaign to make tourism the fourth biggest export industry? That the UF government picked up where the UNP had left off and has now let this country into make-believe world where everybody thinks that tourism will bring salvation to Sri Lanka? That if the UF had continued the grow-more-food campaign of the UNP it would have been far better for the country?